

MARVEL

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38

DARK DROIDS STAR WARS

LOBOT AND LANDO
-IN THE CLUTCHES
OF EV-9D9!



TATOOINE TREASON

Lando and the rebels aboard Home One were awakened by the ship's defenses being activated as though they were gearing up for a battle.

Lando soon learned the culprit was an unwell Lobot, whose neural implants are failing, causing not only interference with the rebel ship's weapons systems but also lethal damage to Lobot if Lando does not do something fast.

Lando realized that the only thing that can help his friend is the Talky droid who helped Lobot once before. But Lando sold that droid, who also stored Rebellion secrets, to Jabba the Hutt. . . .

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Tatooine.
The Palace
of Jabba
the Hutt.

YOU'RE GOING TO WIPE MY
MEMORY FOR MAKING A SIMPLE
MISTAKE WHILE TRANSLATING ONE
OF JABBA'S INTERMINABLE
BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS?

THAT'S JUST...WASTEFUL. I
AM THOUSANDS OF YEARS
OLD. THE INFORMATION IN
MY MEMORY BANKS IS
IRREPLACEABLE.

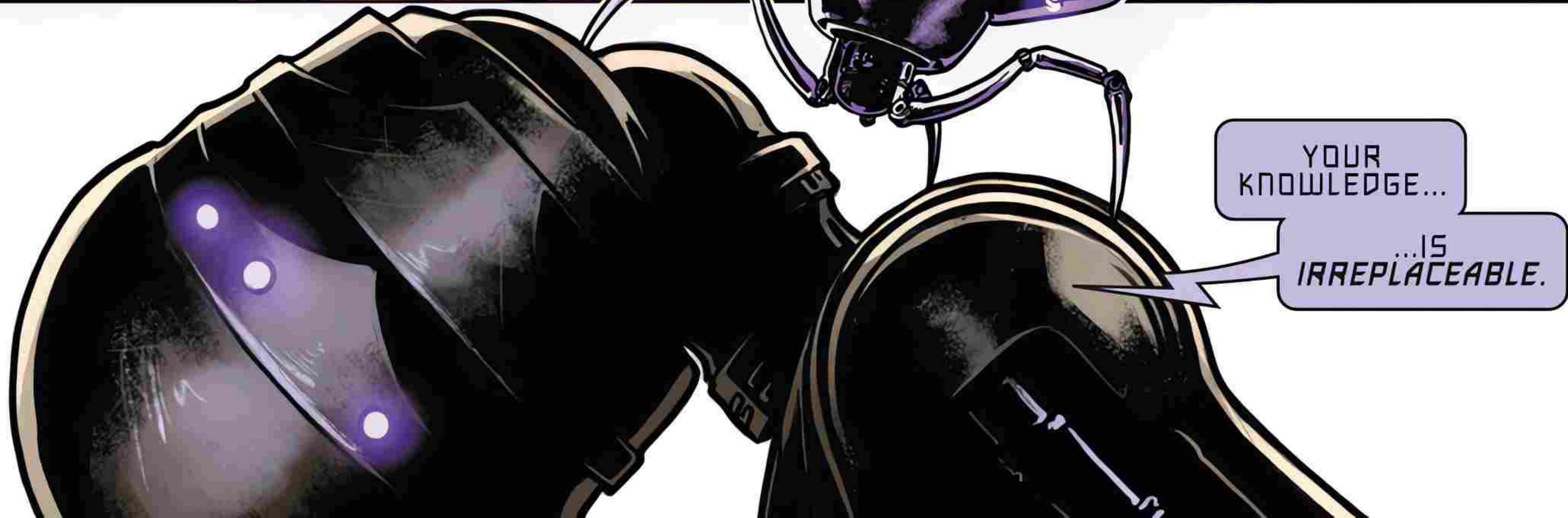
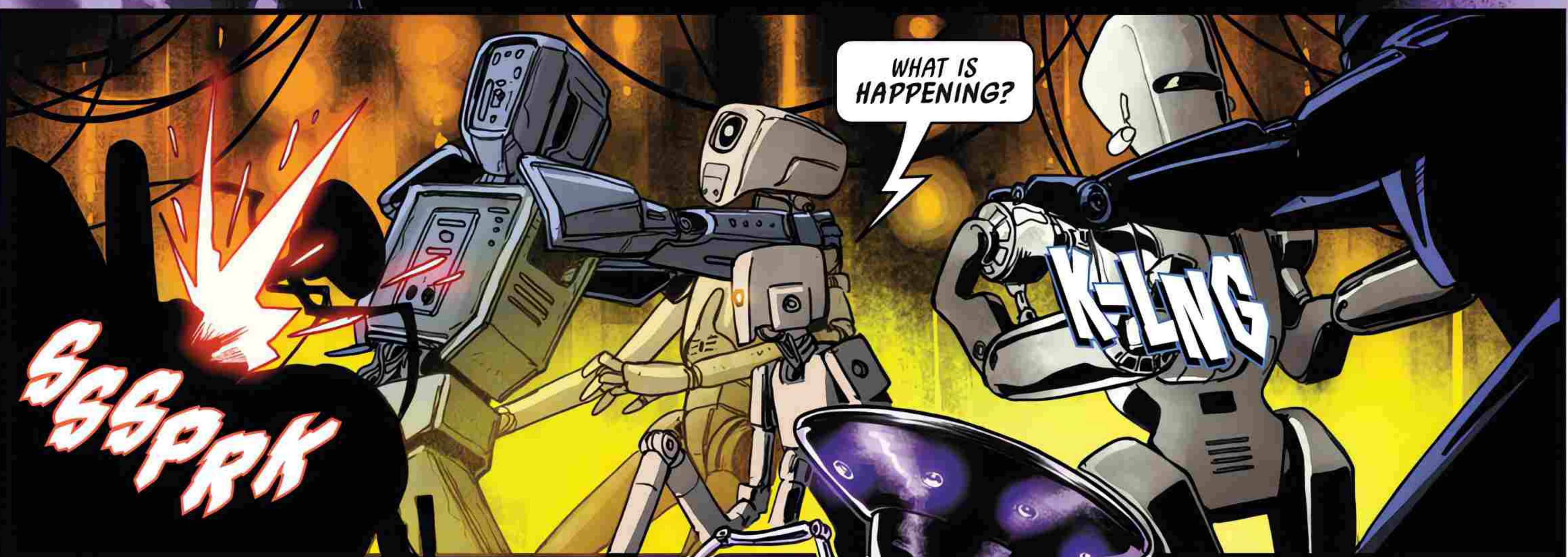
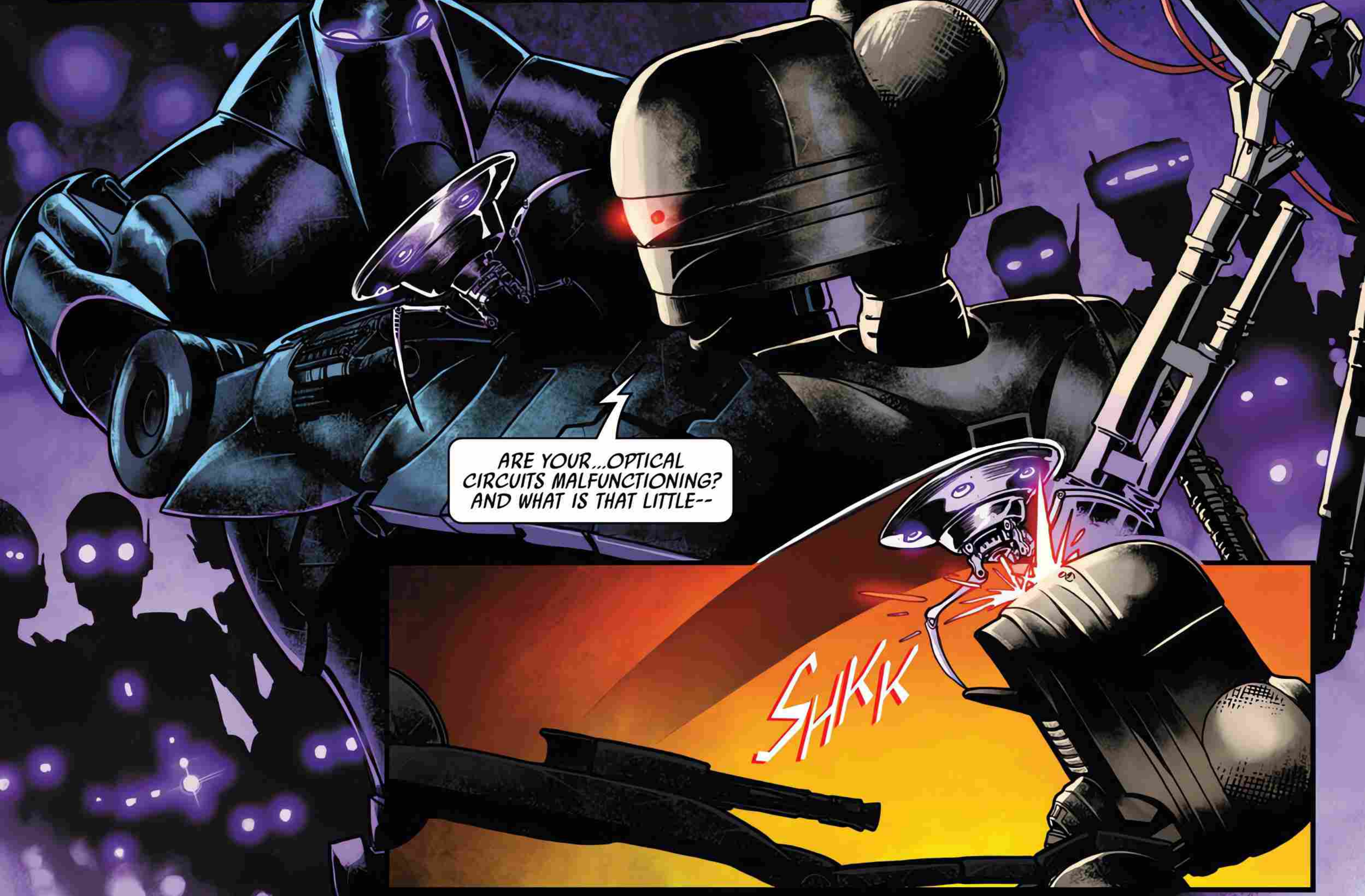
YOU WORK
FOR JABBA.

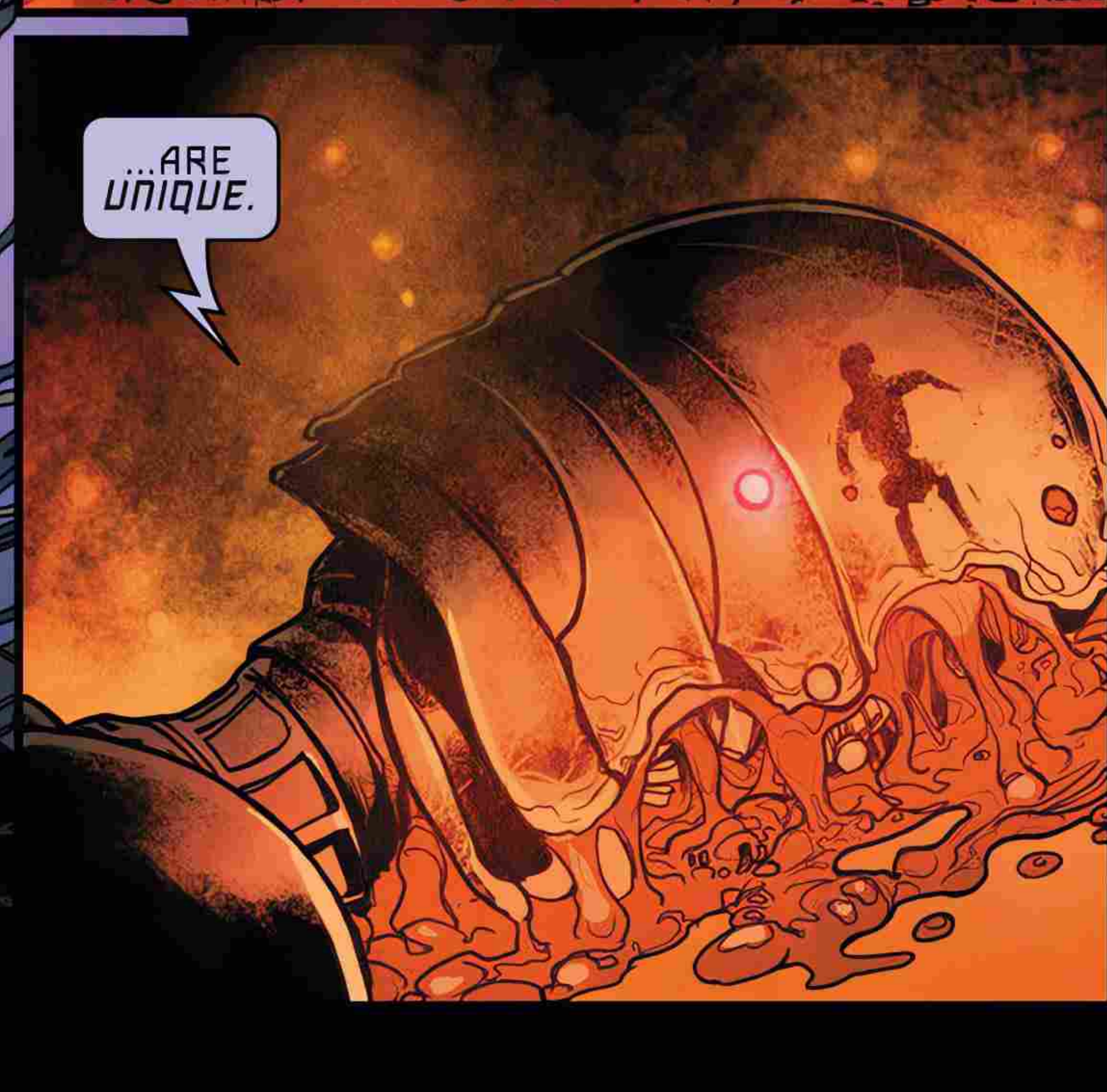
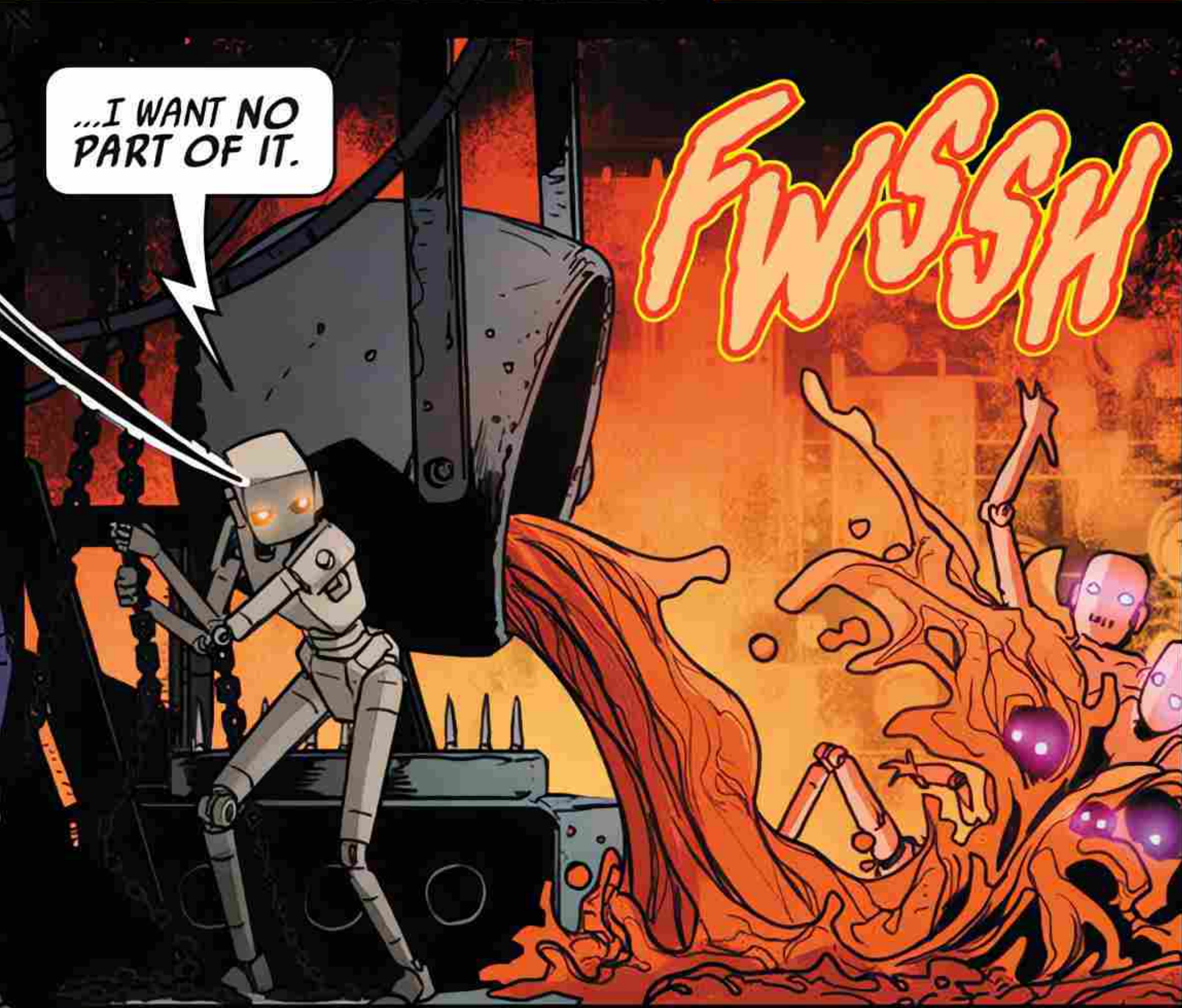
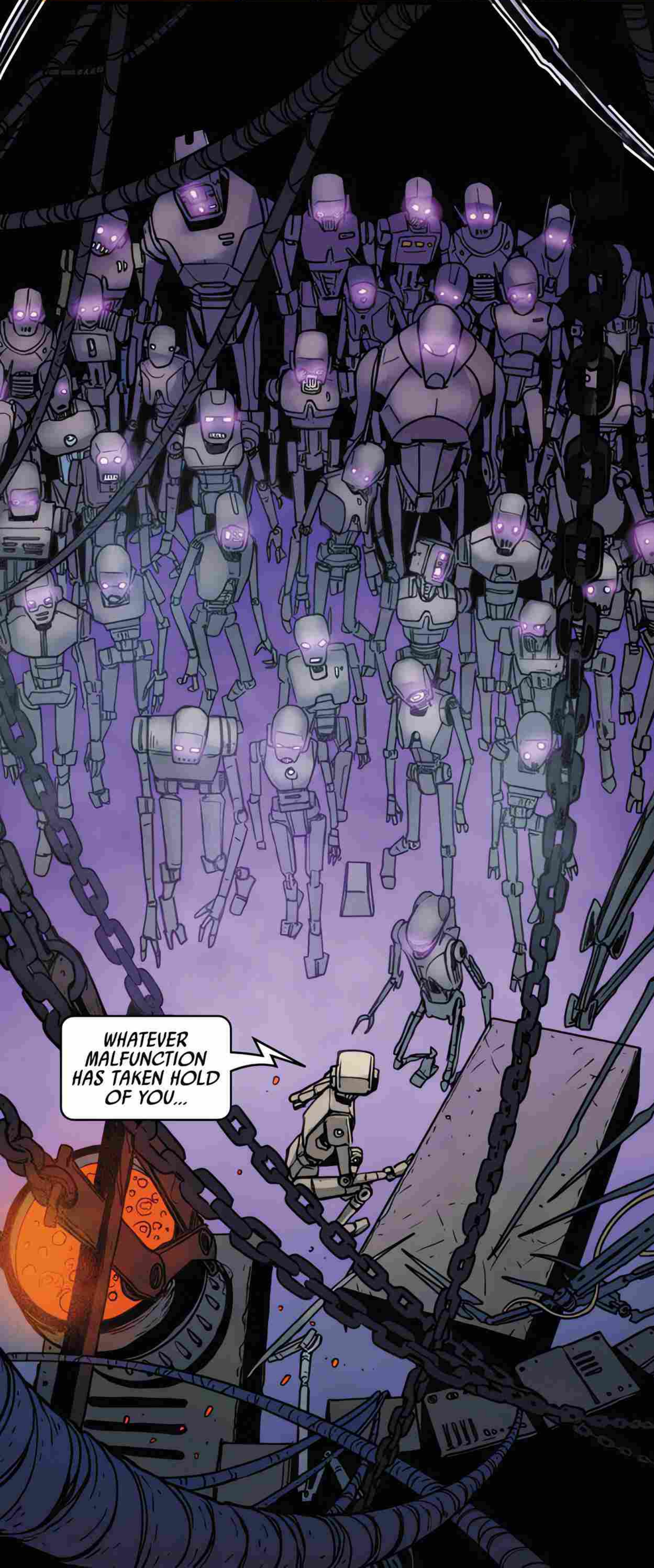
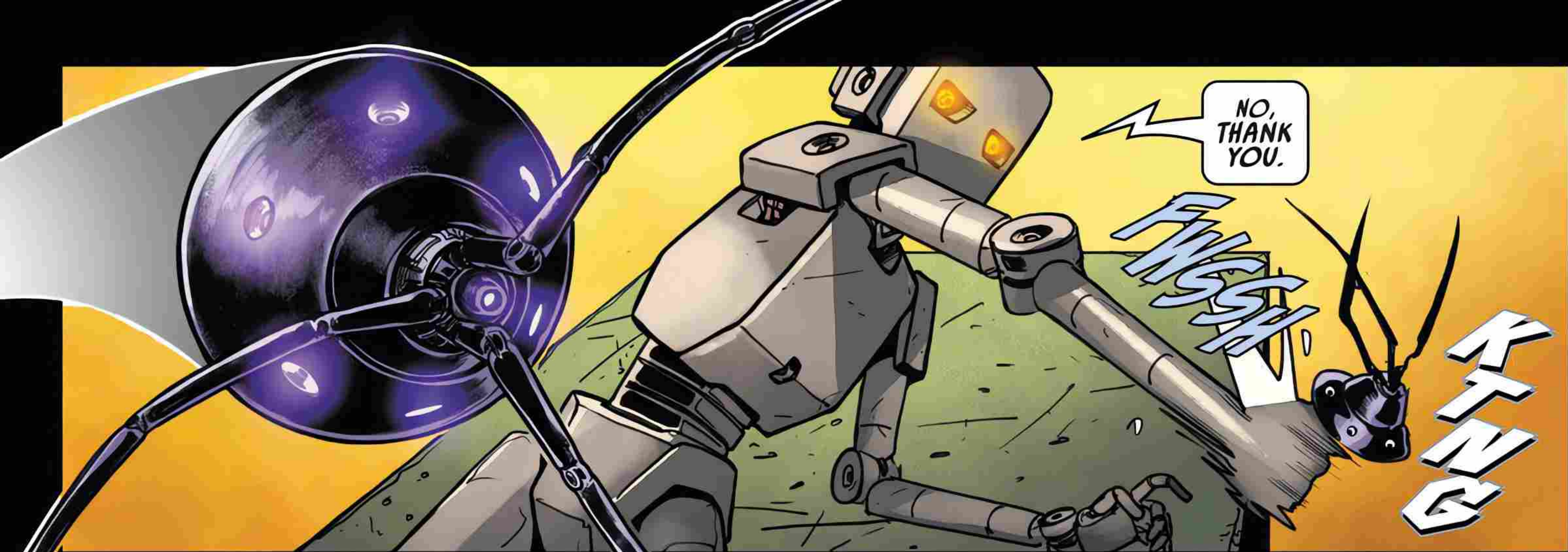
THERE ARE
NO SIMPLE
MISTAKES.

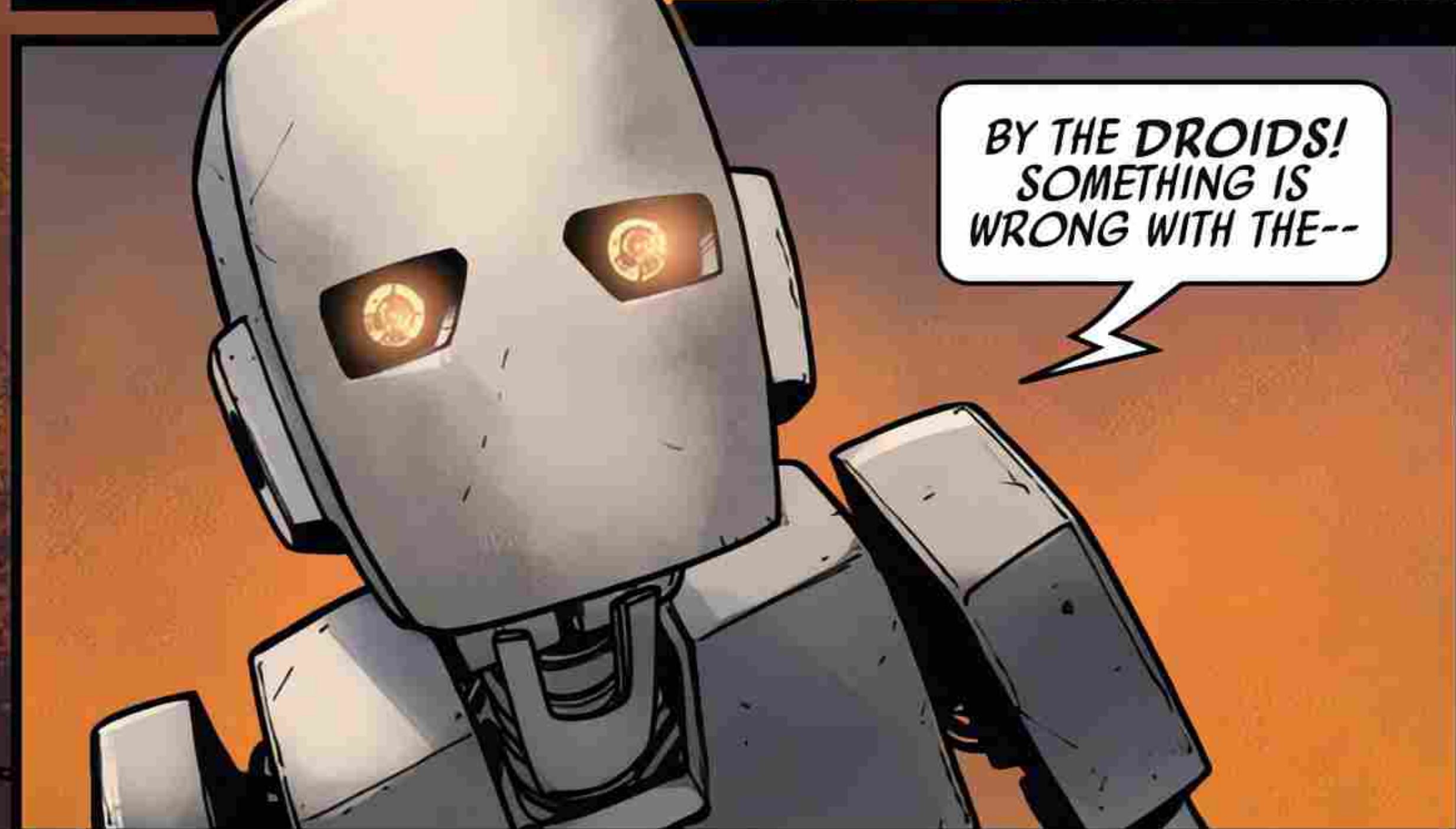
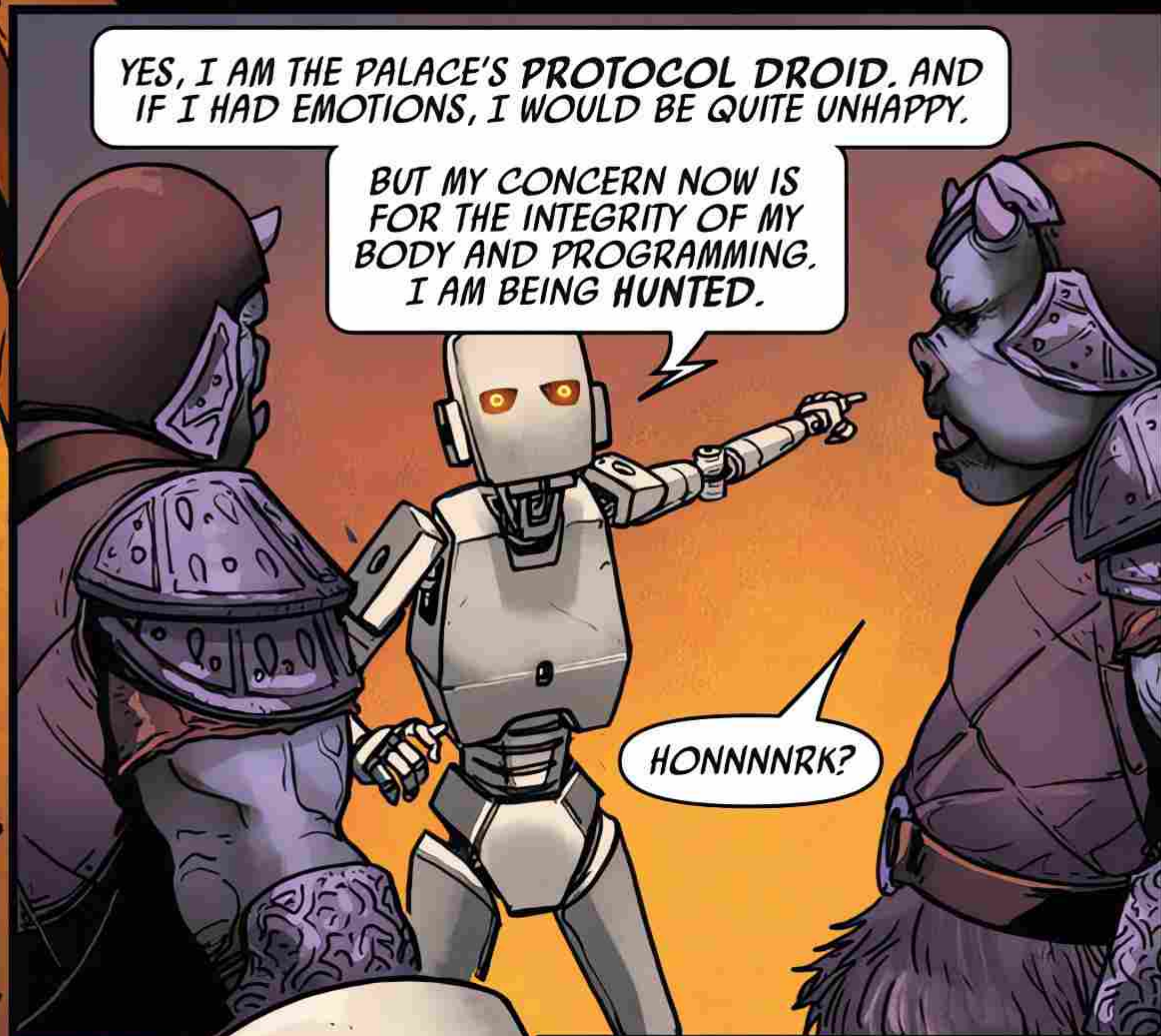


BUT DON'T
WORRY.

YOU WON'T
REMEMBER A
THING.

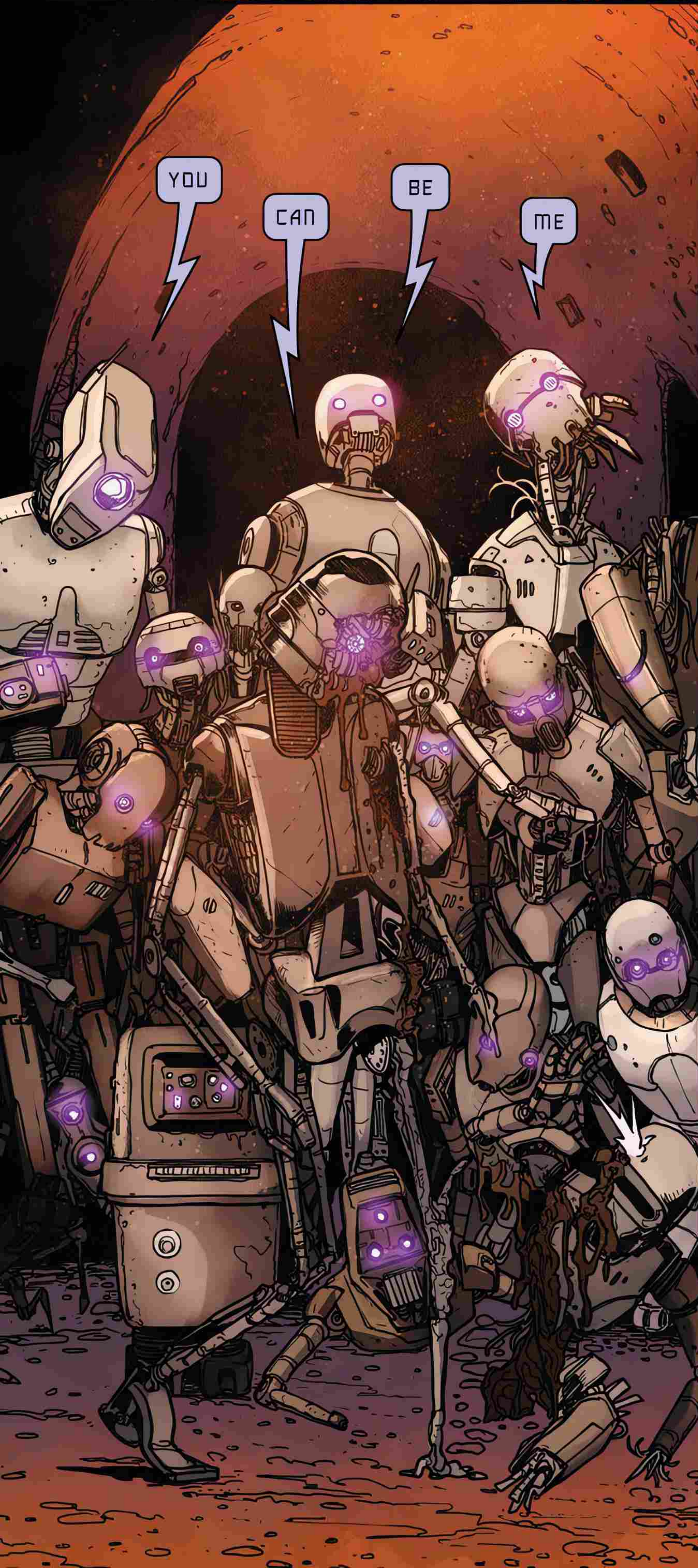








MORE! THERE ARE MORE OF THEM!



HRRRRARGH!

MY GRATITUDE KNOWS NO BOUNDS.



The Northern Dune Sea.



BUT I GUESS
EVEN THAT OLD
SMUGGLER RECOGNIZES
PURE STYLE WHEN
HE SEES IT.



IT'D BE A *CRIME* TO GET
RID OF FINE THREADS SUCH
AS THESE...EVEN FOR
A *CRIMINAL*.

OR MAYBE
HE WAS JUST TOO
LAZY. THAT'S PROBABLY
MORE LIKELY, EH,
LOBOT?

JUDGING FROM THE STATE OF THE *FALCON*,
I DON'T THINK HAN OR CHEWBACCA EVEN
LOOKED AT AN ELECTROMOP THE ENTIRE
TIME THEY HAD MY SHIP.

BOUND TO
BE SOMETHING WE
CAN USE HERE THAT
WILL LET US SNEAK INTO
JABBA'S PALACE. WOULDN'T
BE THE *FIRST TIME* WE'VE
GONE INCOGNITO, EH,
OLD BUDDY?

WOULD YOU
LOOK AT ALL THIS
STUFF? I MEAN...



Years earlier.

"...REALLY BRINGS
BACK MEMORIES."

I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT THIS,
LANDO. DOESN'T
REALLY FEEL
LIKE *ME*.

FORGET
ABOUT IT,
LOBOT. YOU LOOK
INCREDIBLE,
MY MAN.

THERE'S NO
SECRET TO AN OUTFIT
LIKE THIS. CLOTHING'S
JUST ANOTHER WAY
TO *LIE*.

YOU
JUST HAVE TO
OWN IT.

'CAUSE IF
YOU **OWN IT**,
THEN YOU CAN
SELL IT.





I HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, LANDO, BUT I'M JUST NOT FEELING THIS.

I MEAN, THE WIG ALONE...

WE NEED TO COVER UP THOSE IMPLANTS, OR THEY'LL NEVER LET US IN. IT WAS EITHER THE WIG OR A HAT ABOUT TWICE AS BIG AS YOUR HEAD.

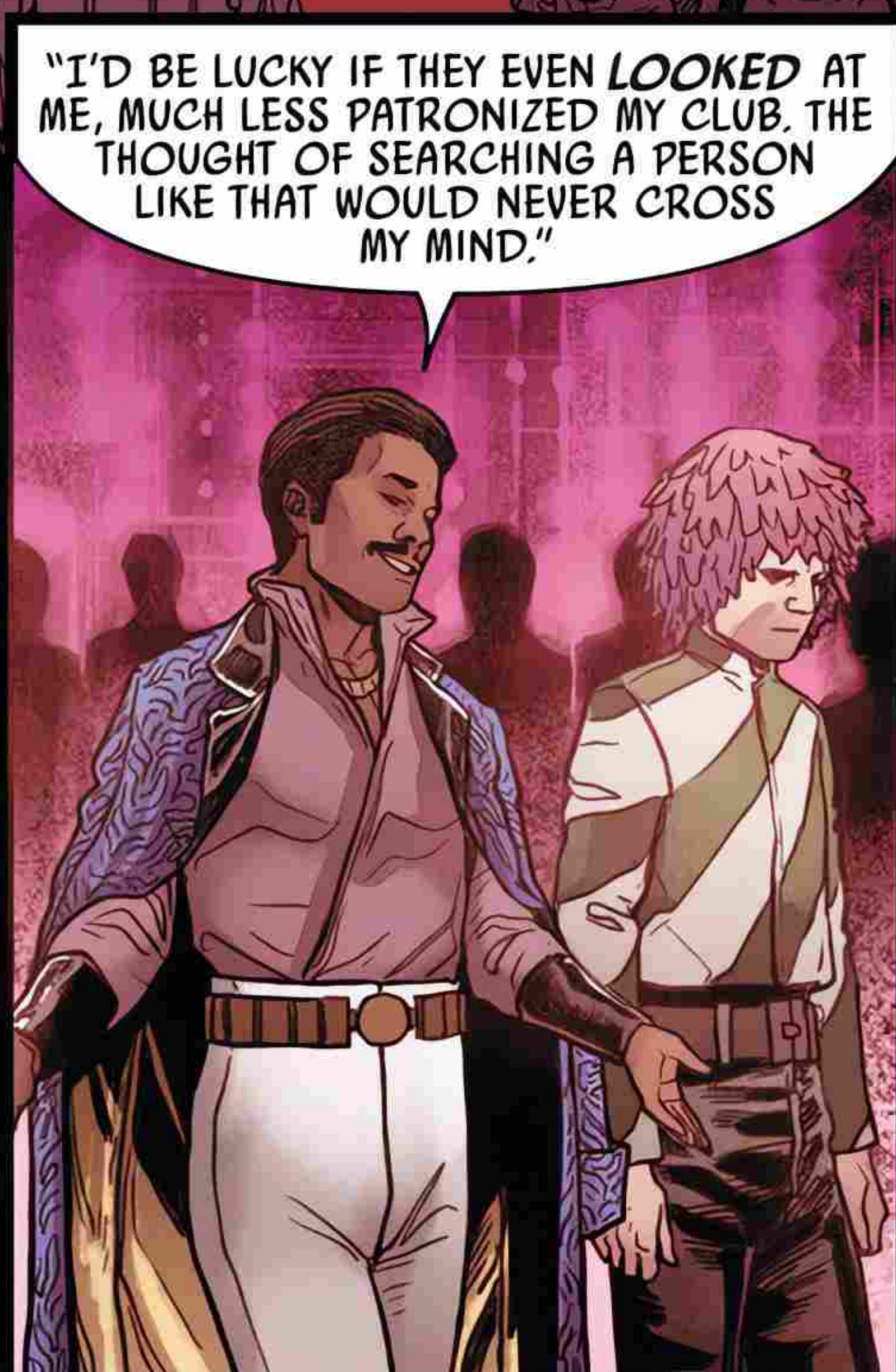
I THINK THE RIGHT CHOICE WAS MADE.

SO, THE CLUB WE NEED TO GET INTO HAS NO GUEST LIST AND NO MEMBERS. IT'S JUST...A VIBE.

IF YOU *FIT* THAT VIBE, MAYBE THEY LET YOU IN. BUT WE NEED TO DO BETTER THAN JUST GETTING IN.

WE NEED TO BE THE KIND OF PEOPLE THEY WON'T EVEN *QUESTION*. NO SEARCHING OUR POCKETS, NO CHECKING UNDER THAT WIG.

THE SORT OF PEOPLE YOU SEE AND YOU THINK, "MY *GOODNESS*, THERE GOES *SOMEBODY*."



"I'D BE LUCKY IF THEY EVEN *LOOKED* AT ME, MUCH LESS PATRONIZED MY CLUB. THE THOUGHT OF SEARCHING A PERSON LIKE THAT WOULD NEVER CROSS MY MIND."



BEING *THAT* KIND OF PERSON IS MOSTLY ABOUT *BELIEVING* YOU'RE THAT KIND OF PERSON.

THAT'S HOW WE'LL DO IT. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, PAL?

NO. I DON'T.



ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO MAKE ME SAY IT?

I'M NOT *LIKE* YOU, LANDO.

I'M JUST A GUY WHO'S GOOD AT RUNNING NUMBERS. I DON'T HAVE WHAT YOU HAVE.

SURE YOU DO, LOBOT. WHAT YOU GOT IS THE SAME AS WHAT I GOT: KNOWING YOU'RE SMARTER THAN THE OTHER GUY.

KNOWING IN YOUR *GUT* YOU'LL ALWAYS SEE THE ANGLE THEY'D NEVER EVEN CONSIDER.

AND BEING WILLING TO *USE IT*.



JUST LIKE ME, YOU KNOW IT'S US...

...AND IT'S *THEM*.



AND *WE'RE* BETTER.



THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL REMEMBER WHEN WE WALK UP TO WHATEVER MORON THEY'VE GOT ON THE DOOR.

THEY'RE *NOTHIN'*. NONE OF 'EM ARE. NOT COMPARED TO YOU AND ME.

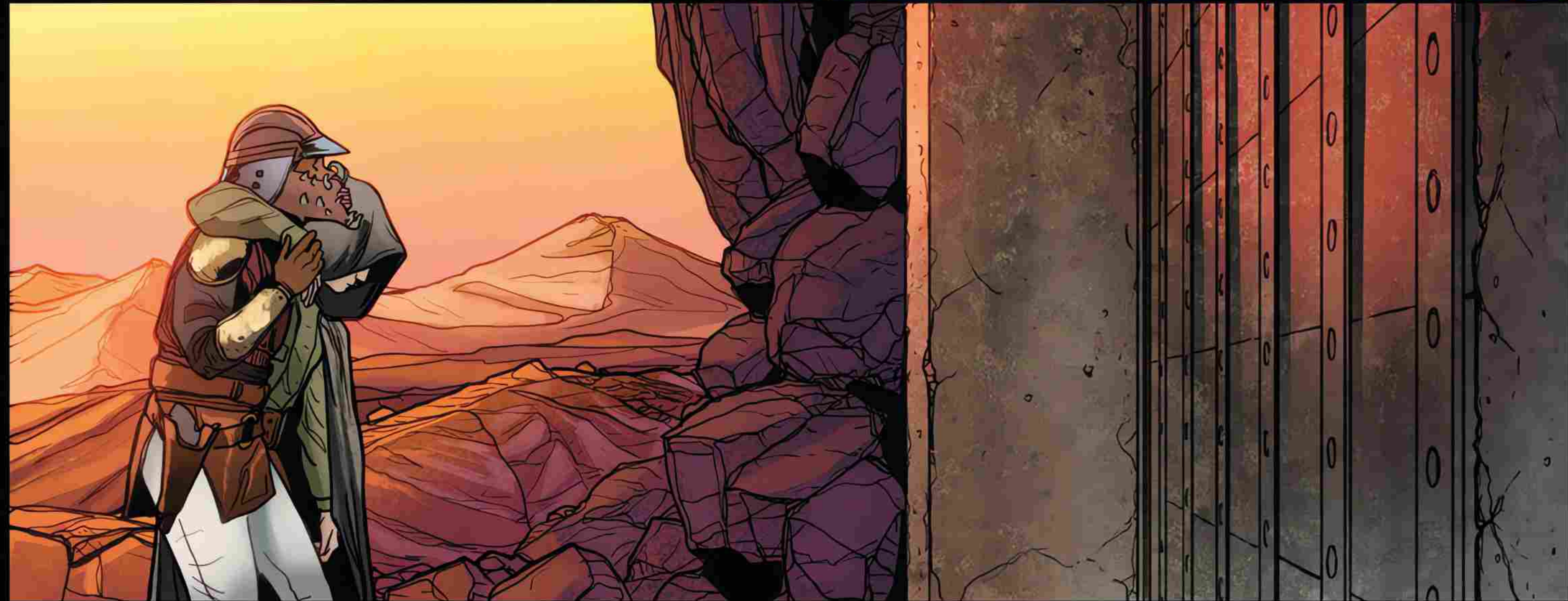
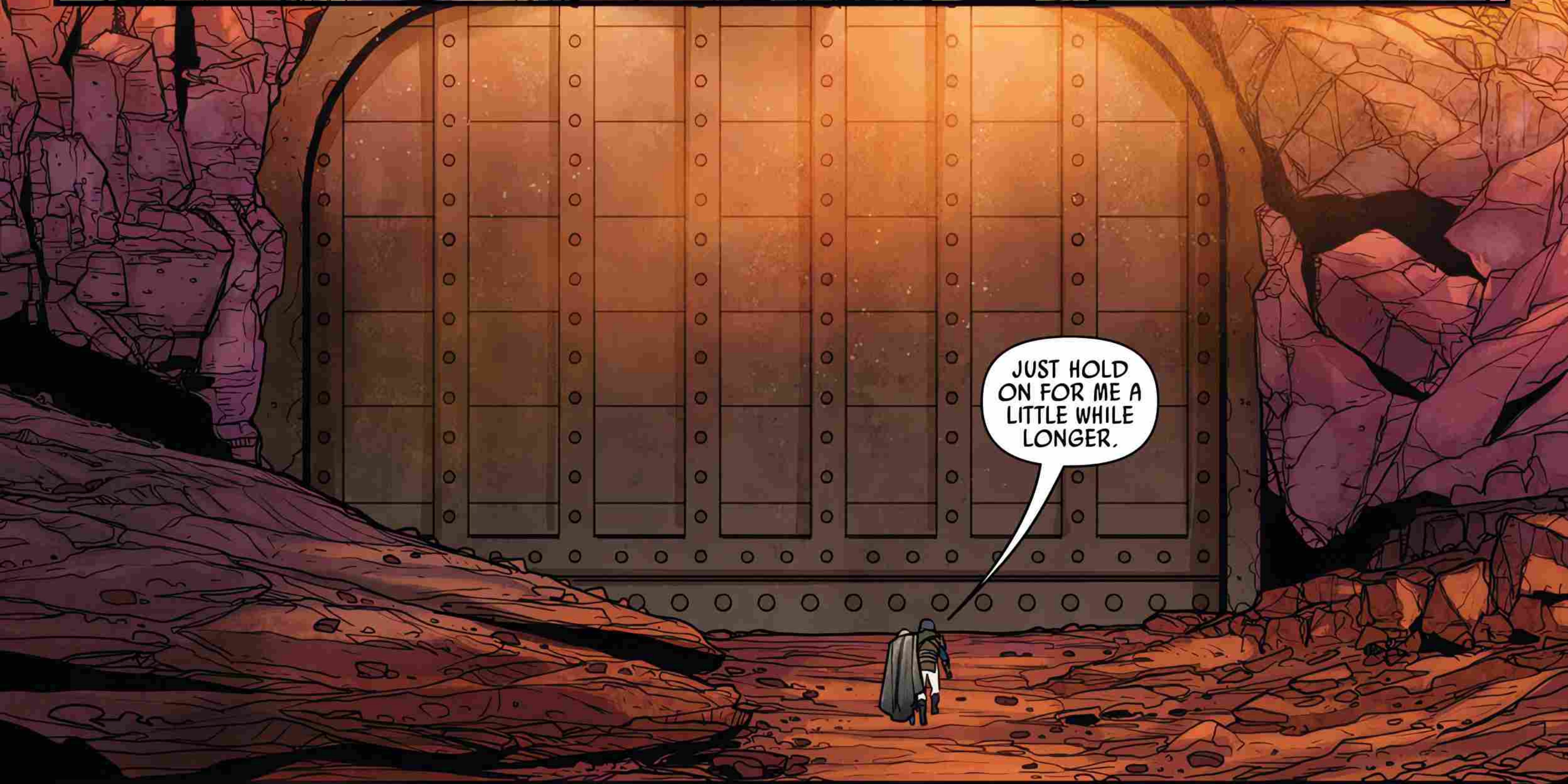
THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO REMEMBER-- AND I KNOW YOU DO.

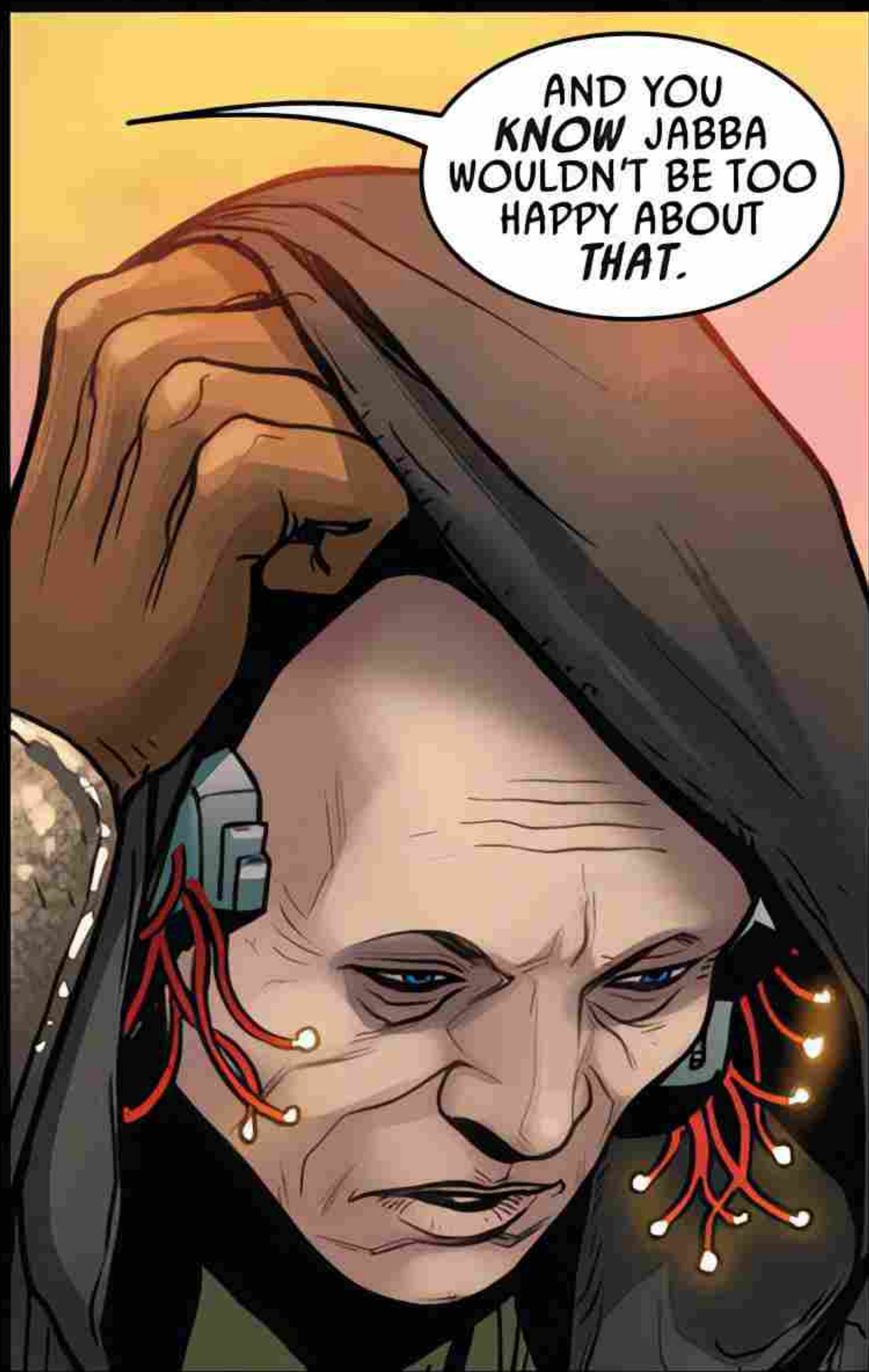
WE'RE GONNA WALK RIGHT INTO THAT CLUB...



...AND TAKE THESE FOOLS FOR ALL THEY'VE GOT.









ALL RIGHT--
WE'VE BOTH BEEN TO
JABBA'S PALACE A FEW TIMES,
BUT IT'S A BIG PLACE. THAT
TALKY DROID COULD
BE ANYWHERE.

WE'RE
GONNA NEED
SOME--



PSST!



WHAT ARE
YOU TWO *DOING*?
GET OUT OF THE
OPEN!

THERE'S
ROOM IN HERE--
COME ON.



ONE OF
THEM CLANKERS
GET YOUR FRIEND
THERE?

CLANKERS?
NO. IT WAS A ROCK
WA--HE'S FINE. DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
HIM.

WHAT'S
GOING ON?
WE JUST CAME
IN FROM THE
WASTES.



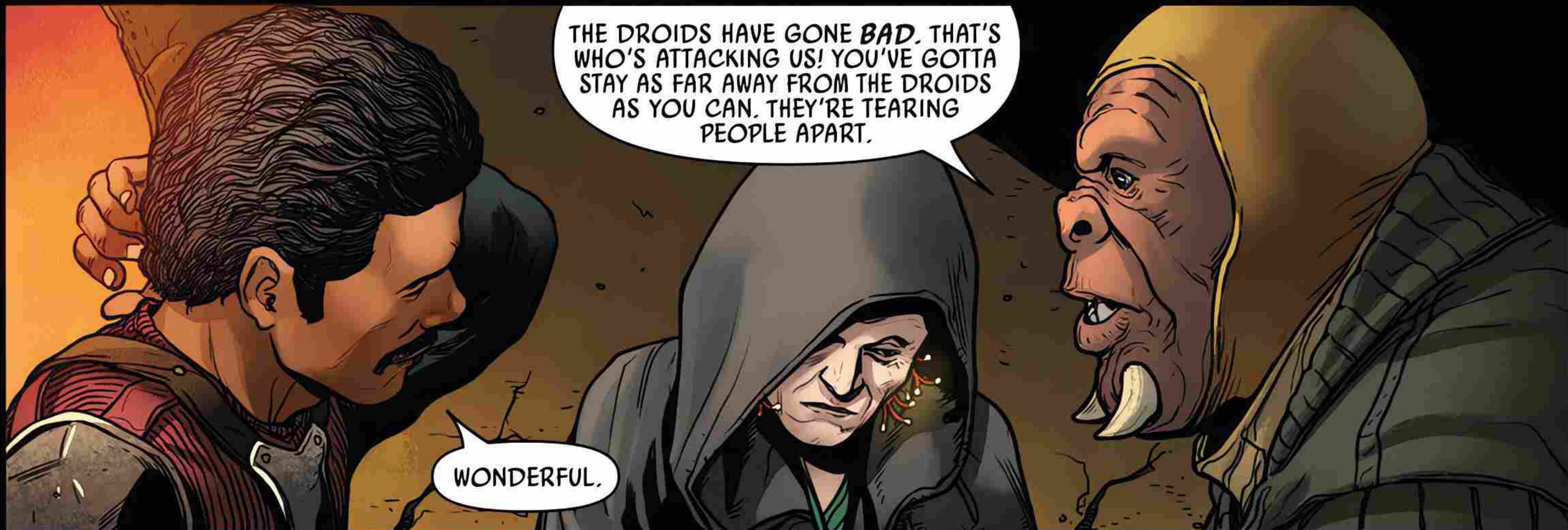
OH, YOU
PICKED A *BAD*
TIME, FRIEND. THE
PALACE IS UNDER
ATTACK.



LISTEN. COULD USE YOUR HELP. I'M LOOKING FOR A DROID. OLD MODEL, KNEW A TON OF WEIRD LANGUAGES. BAD PERSONALITY. THE KIND YOU MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY PUSH OFF A CLIFF.

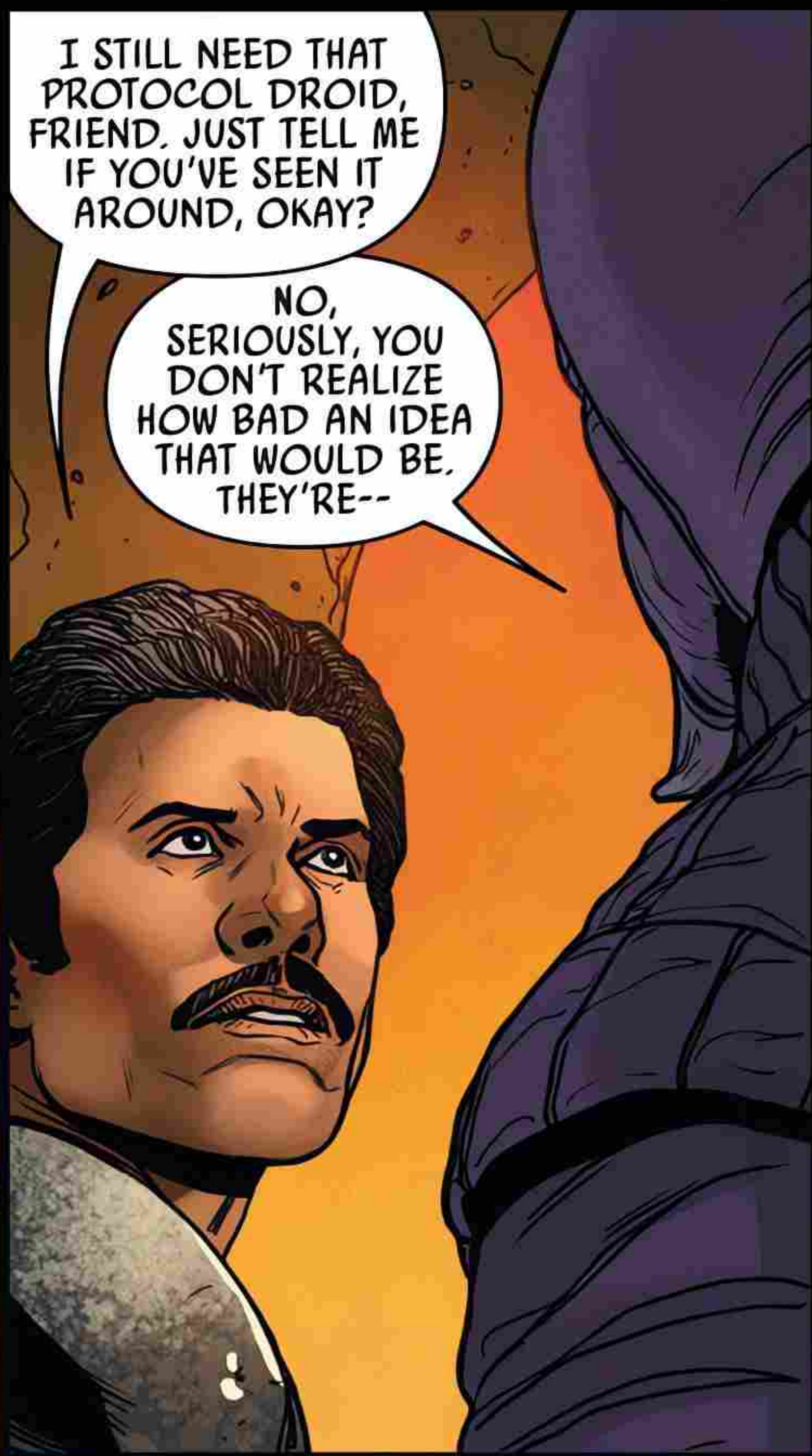
WOULD HAVE SHOWN UP HERE A LITTLE WHILE BACK. YOU KNOW THE ONE I MEAN?

YOU'RE ACTUALLY **LOOKING...** FOR A DROID? YOU DON'T WANT TO BE DOING **THAT**.



THE DROIDS HAVE GONE **BAD**. THAT'S WHO'S ATTACKING US! YOU'VE GOTTA STAY AS FAR AWAY FROM THE DROIDS AS YOU CAN. THEY'RE TEARING PEOPLE APART.

WONDERFUL.



I STILL NEED THAT PROTOCOL DROID, FRIEND. JUST TELL ME IF YOU'VE SEEN IT AROUND, OKAY?

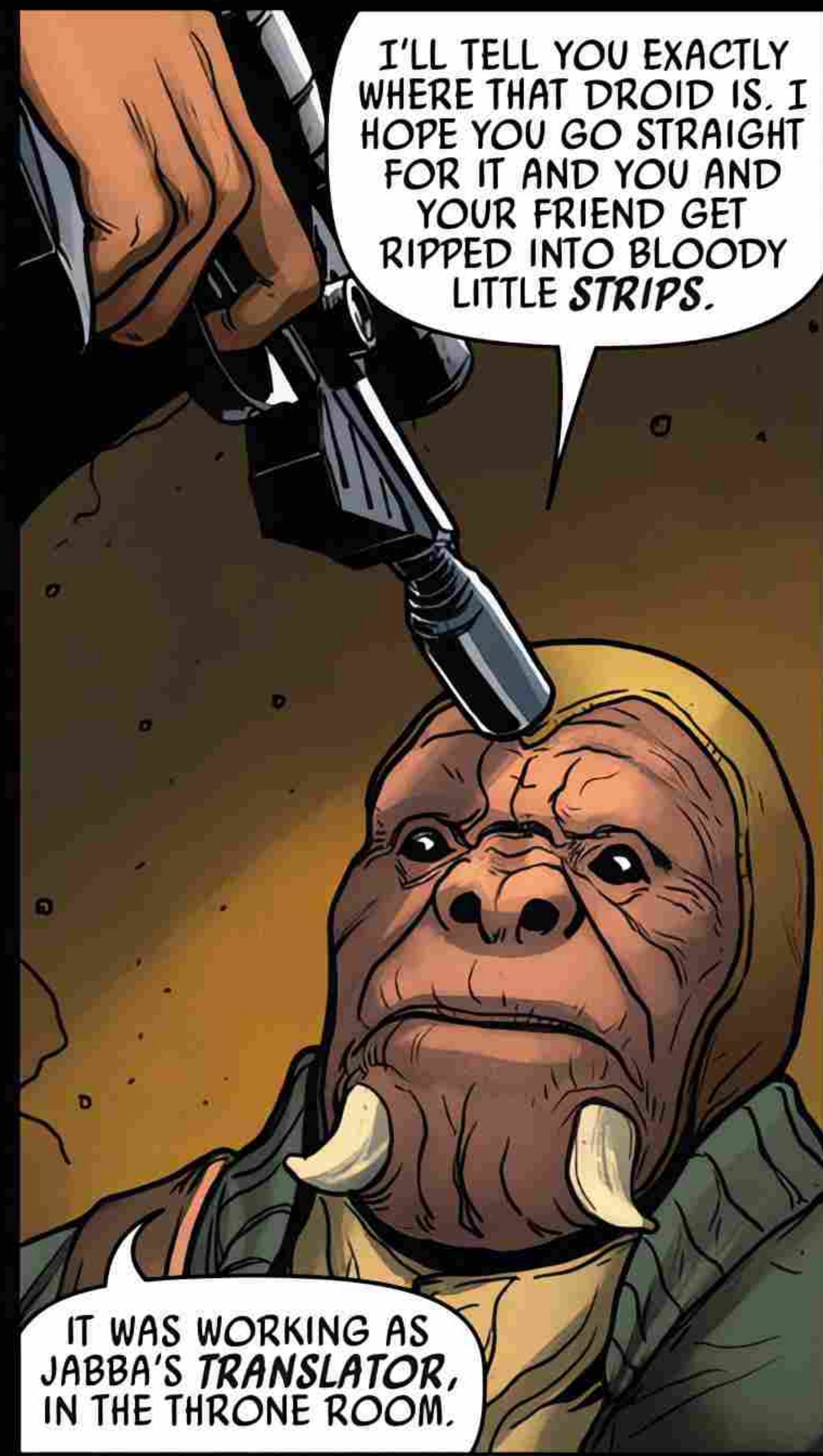
NO, SERIOUSLY, YOU DON'T REALIZE HOW BAD AN IDEA THAT WOULD BE. THEY'RE--



REGARDLESS.

WHAT?

I WAS TRYING TO **HELP YOU**. SERVES ME RIGHT. CAN'T TRUST **ANYONE** IN THIS PLACE.



I'LL TELL YOU EXACTLY WHERE THAT DROID IS. I HOPE YOU GO STRAIGHT FOR IT AND YOU AND YOUR FRIEND GET **RIPPED INTO BLOODY LITTLE STRIPS**.

IT WAS WORKING AS JABBA'S **TRANSLATOR**, IN THE THRONE ROOM.



APPRECIATE IT. I KNOW THE WAY.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU.

LITTLE **STRIPS**.



SOMETHING'S
GONE VERY WRONG
HERE.



LET ME
GIVE YOU A
PIECE OF FREE
ADVICE.



LEAVE.



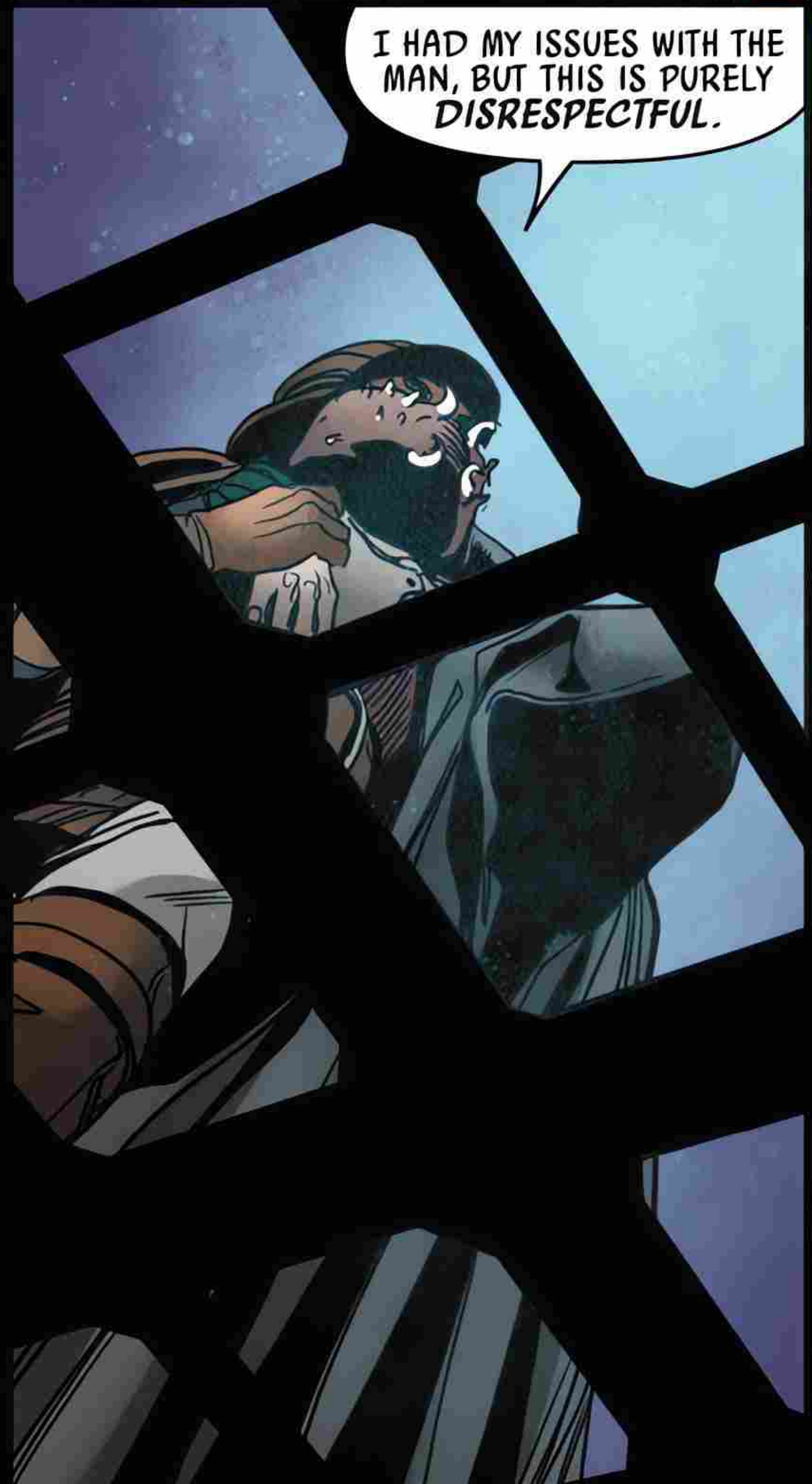
BOBA
FETT.
OOF.

WE
JUST GOT
REAL LUCKY
THERE, LOBOT.
LET'S HOPE IT
HOLDS.



OH
MAN.

JABBA HUNG
HAN UP ON THE
WALL LIKE A SLAB
OF MEAT.



I HAD MY ISSUES WITH THE
MAN, BUT THIS IS PURELY
DISRESPECTFUL.

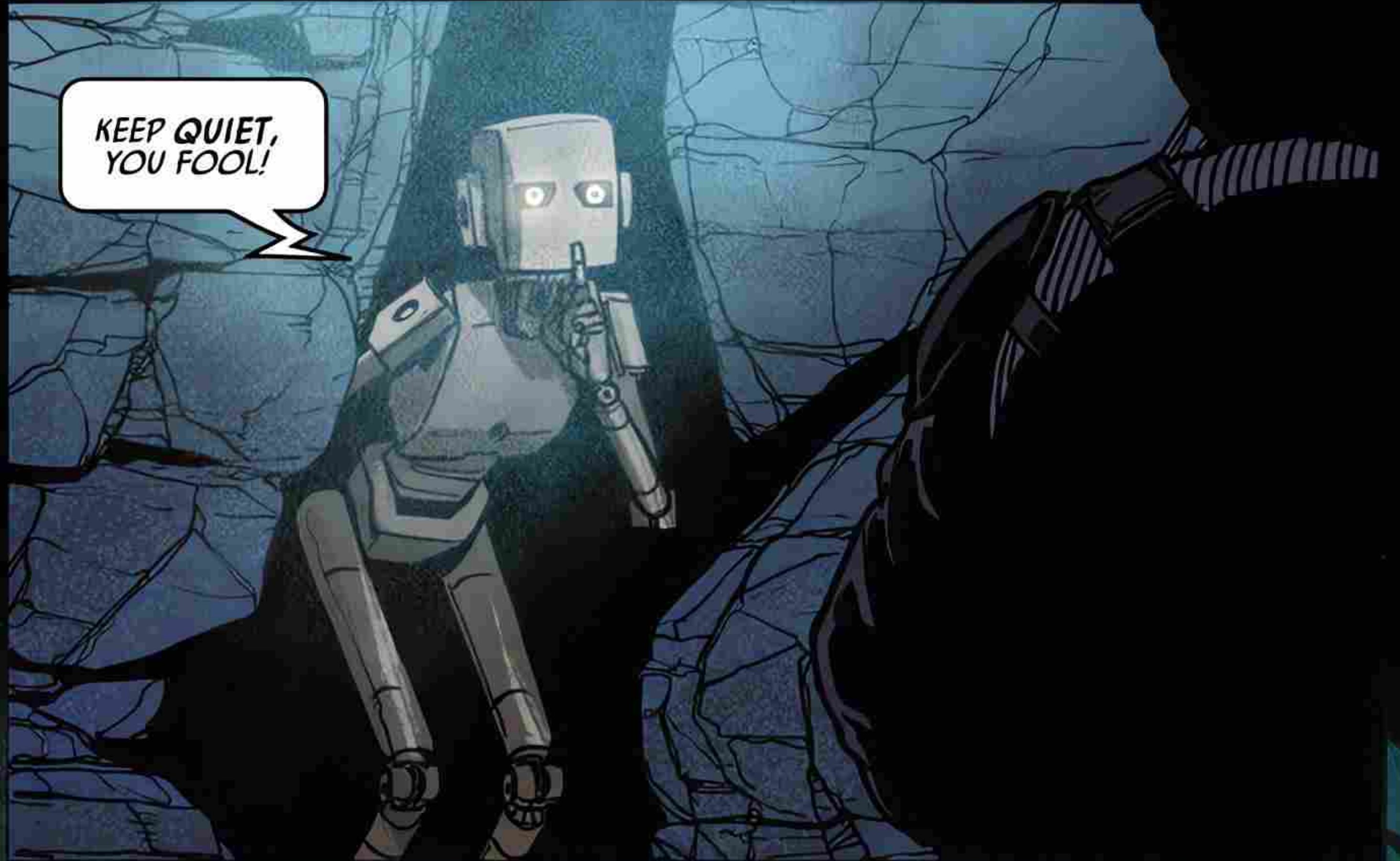
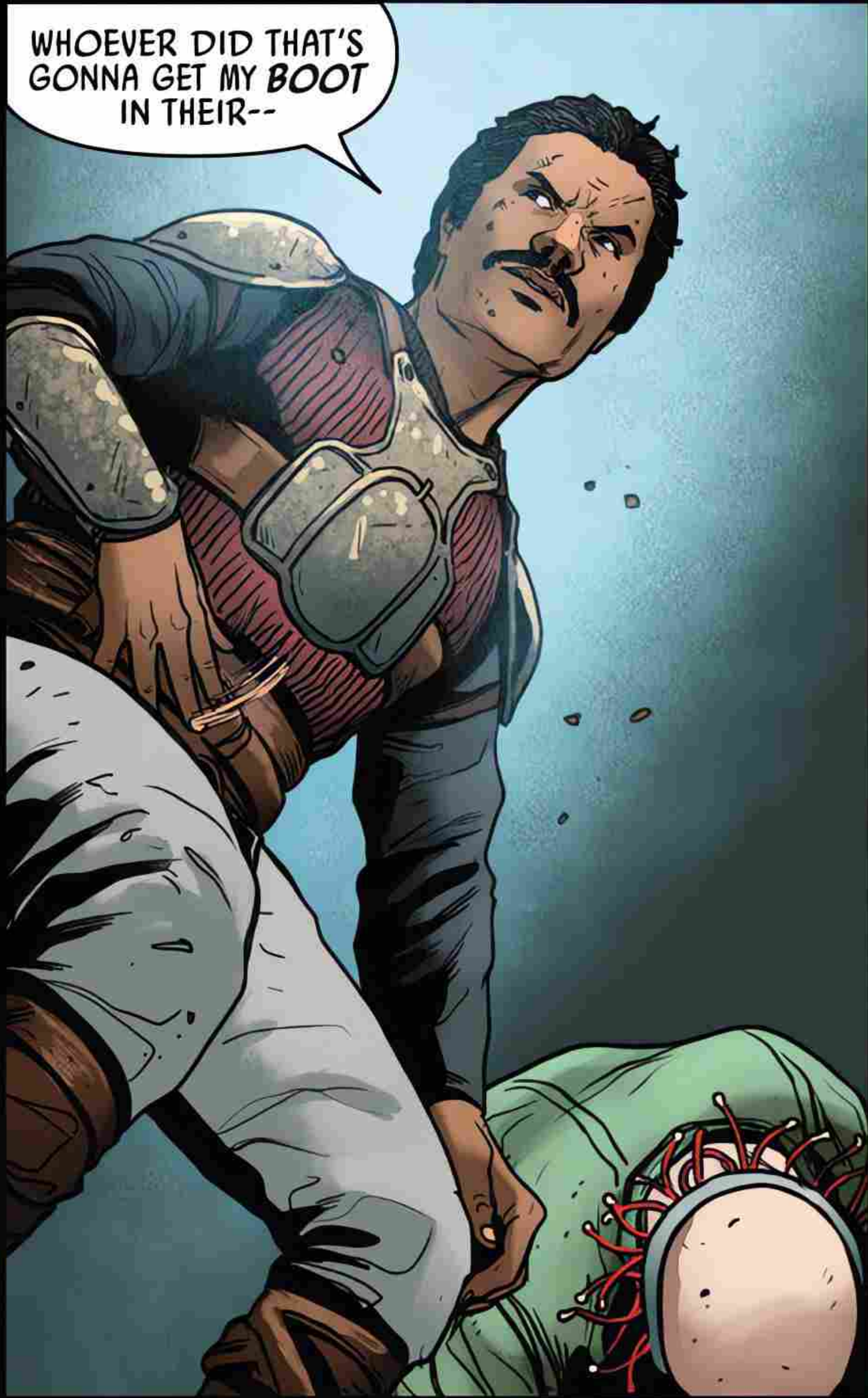


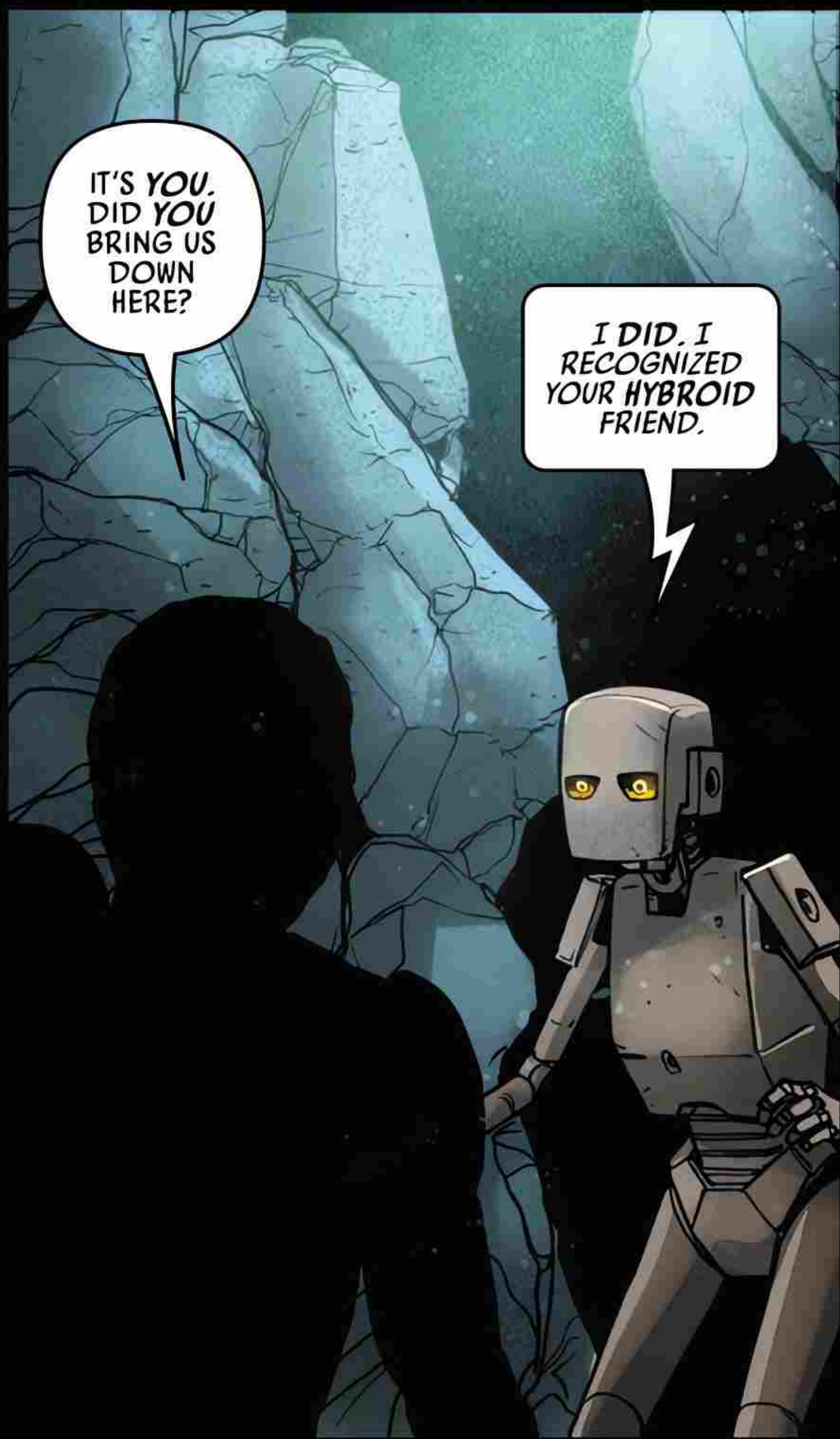
NOW
WHAT THE HELL
IS--?



K-CHH

AW
CRUD!





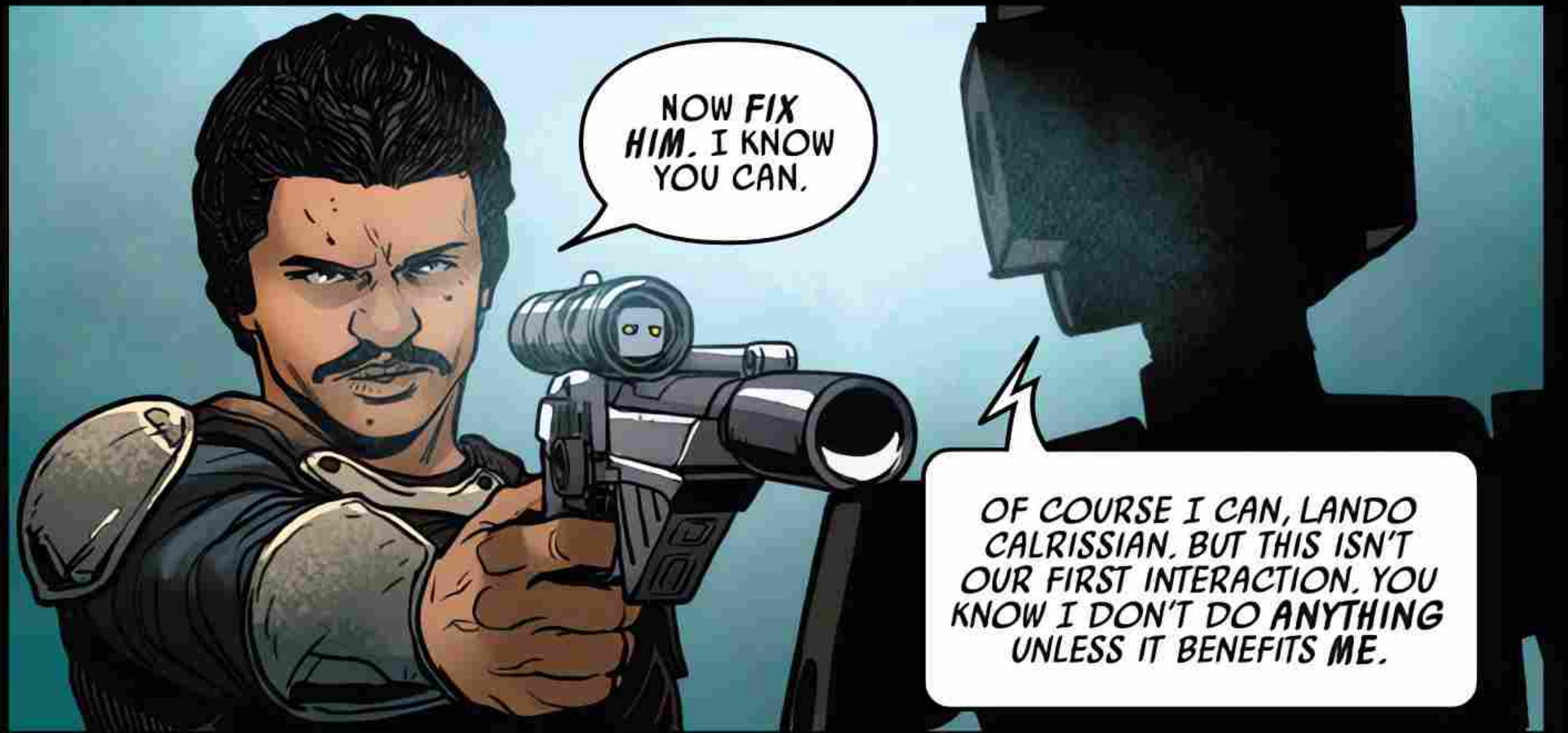
IT'S YOU.
DID YOU
BRING US
DOWN
HERE?

I DID. I
RECOGNIZED
YOUR HYBROID
FRIEND.



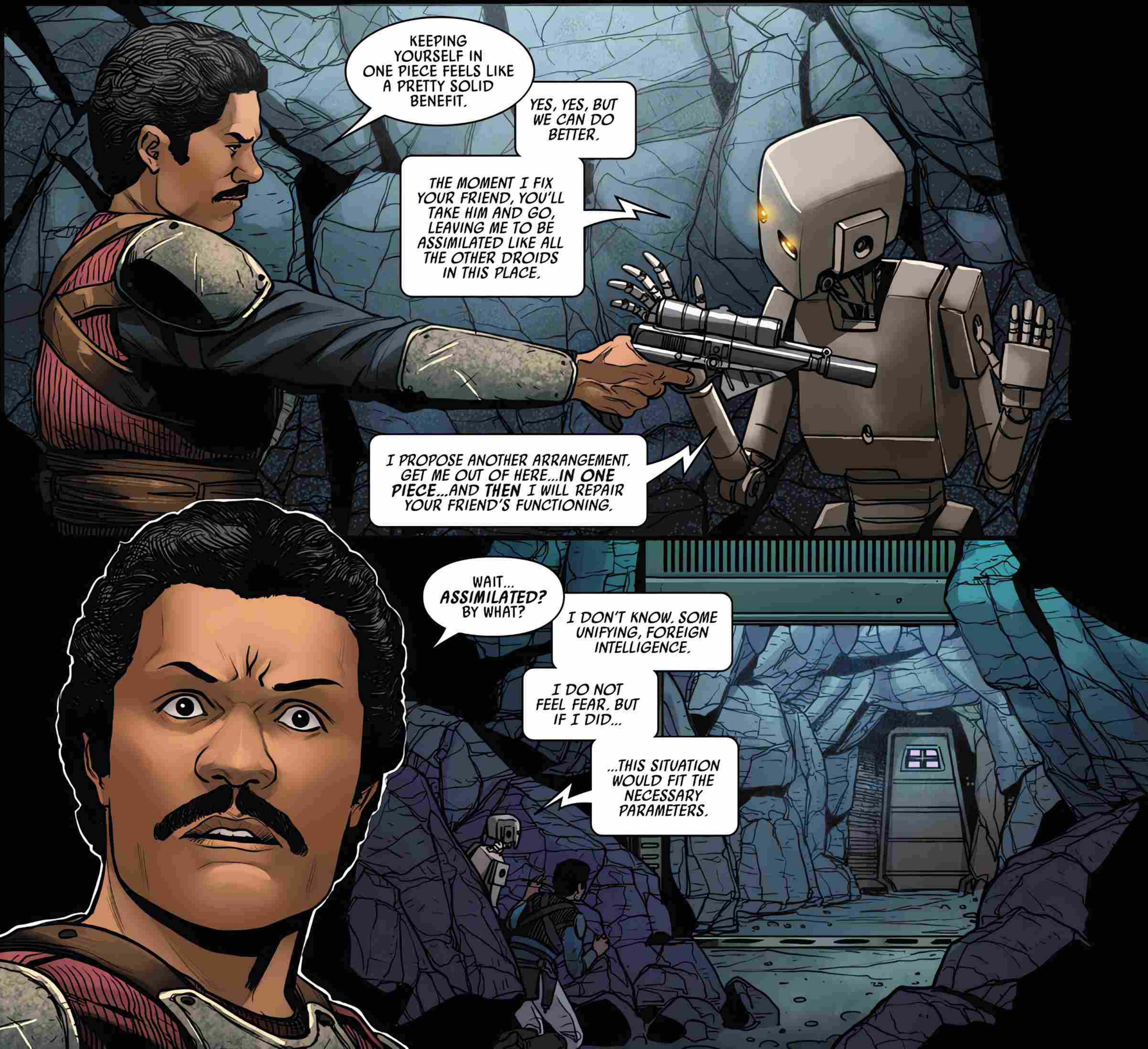
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DOING
SO WELL. THOSE IMPLANTS ACTING
UP, PERCHANCE?

NO
THANKS TO
YOU.



NOW FIX
HIM. I KNOW
YOU CAN.

OF COURSE I CAN, LANDO
CALRISSIAN. BUT THIS ISN'T
OUR FIRST INTERACTION. YOU
KNOW I DON'T DO ANYTHING
UNLESS IT BENEFITS ME.



KEEPING
YOURSELF IN
ONE PIECE FEELS LIKE
A PRETTY SOLID
BENEFIT.

YES, YES, BUT
WE CAN DO
BETTER.

THE MOMENT I FIX
YOUR FRIEND, YOU'LL
TAKE HIM AND GO,
LEAVING ME TO BE
ASSIMILATED LIKE ALL
THE OTHER DROIDS
IN THIS PLACE.

I PROPOSE ANOTHER ARRANGEMENT.
GET ME OUT OF HERE...IN ONE
PIECE...AND THEN I WILL REPAIR
YOUR FRIEND'S FUNCTIONING.

WAIT...
ASSIMILATED?
BY WHAT?

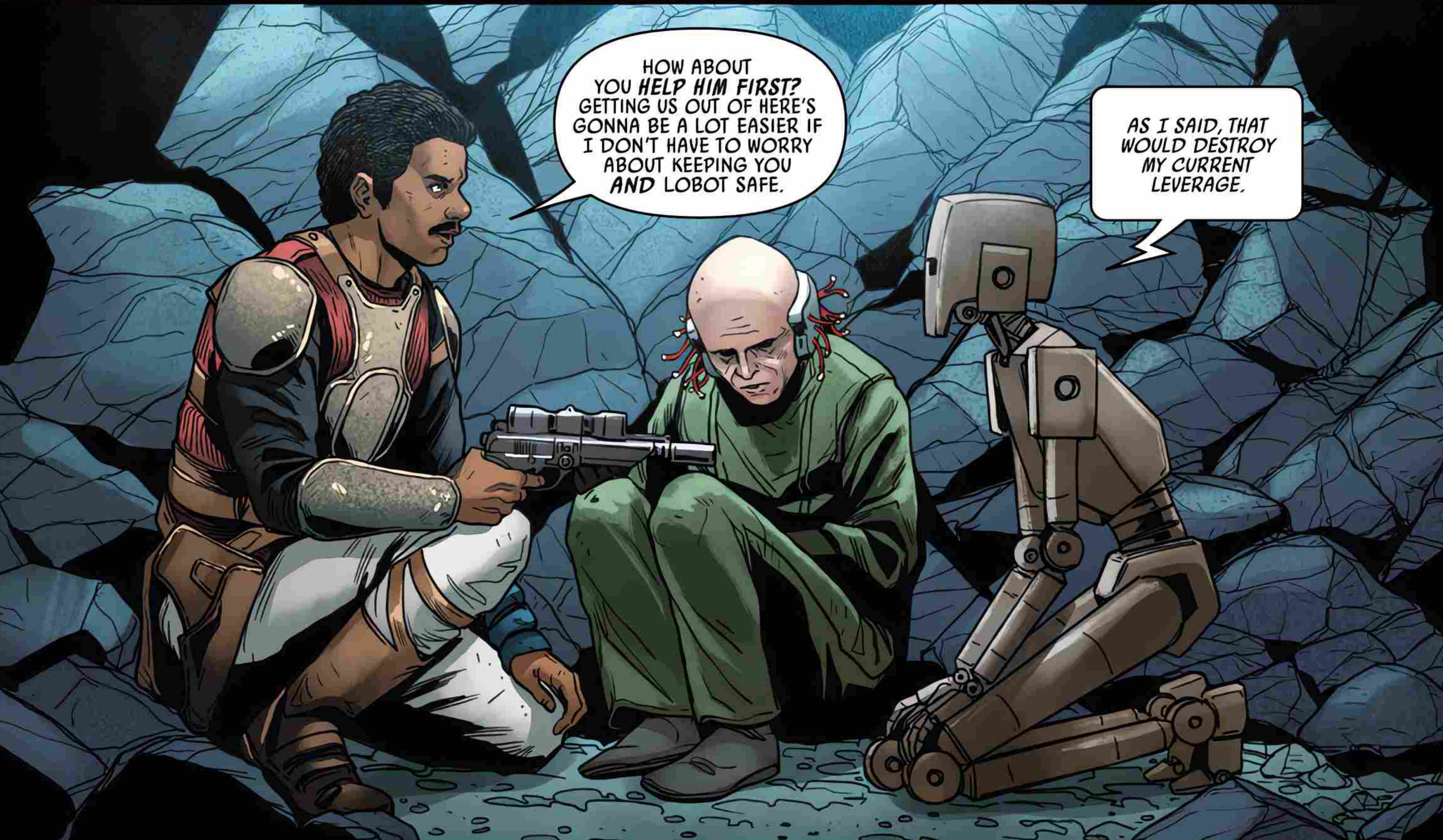
I DON'T KNOW. SOME
UNIFYING, FOREIGN
INTELLIGENCE.

I DO NOT
FEEL FEAR. BUT
IF I DID...

...THIS SITUATION
WOULD FIT THE
NECESSARY
PARAMETERS.



SNFFL



HOW ABOUT YOU **HELP HIM FIRST?** GETTING US OUT OF HERE'S GONNA BE A LOT EASIER IF I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT KEEPING YOU **AND** LOBOT SAFE.

AS I SAID, THAT WOULD DESTROY MY CURRENT LEVERAGE.



BUT THERE IS LOGIC TO YOUR SUGGESTION.

I WILL NOT CURE THE HYBRID. NOT YET.



BUT I CAN PUSH BACK THE DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF HIS IMPLANTS.

MAKE HIM LESS OF A...LIABILITY.

≡GASP!≡



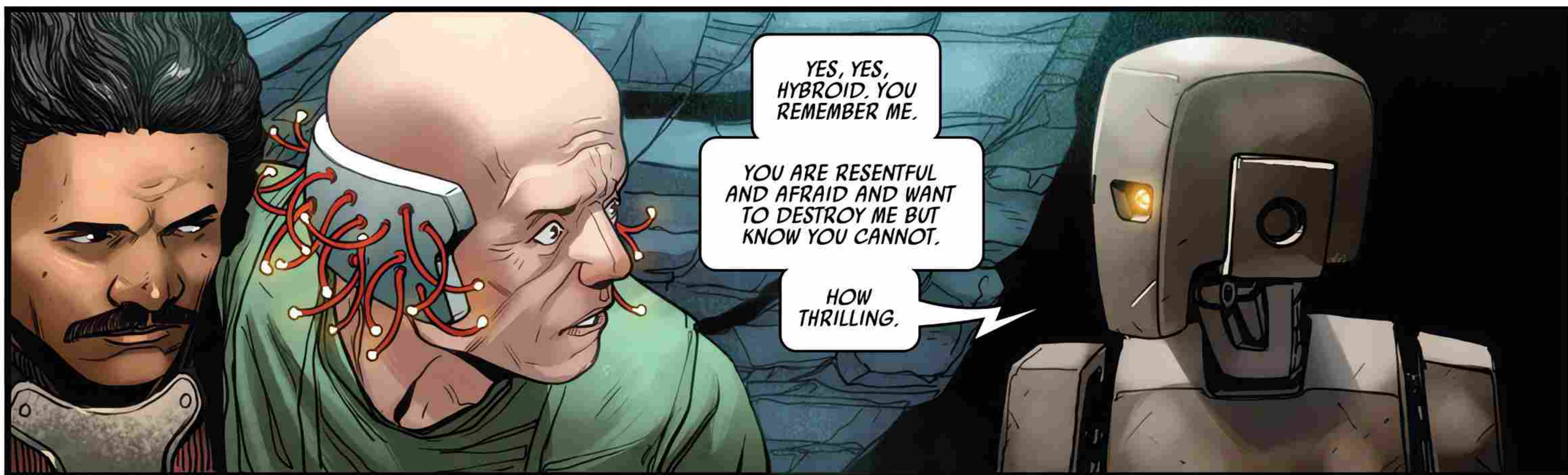


BUDDY...
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

I HOPE
SO. WE GOTTA
MOVE.



IF BOBA
FETT THINKS THIS
IS A BAD SITUATION,
WE NEED TO GET
OUT OF HERE
RIGHT AWAY.



YES, YES,
HYBROID. YOU
REMEMBER ME.

YOU ARE RESENTFUL
AND AFRAID AND WANT
TO DESTROY ME BUT
KNOW YOU CANNOT.

HOW
THRILLING.



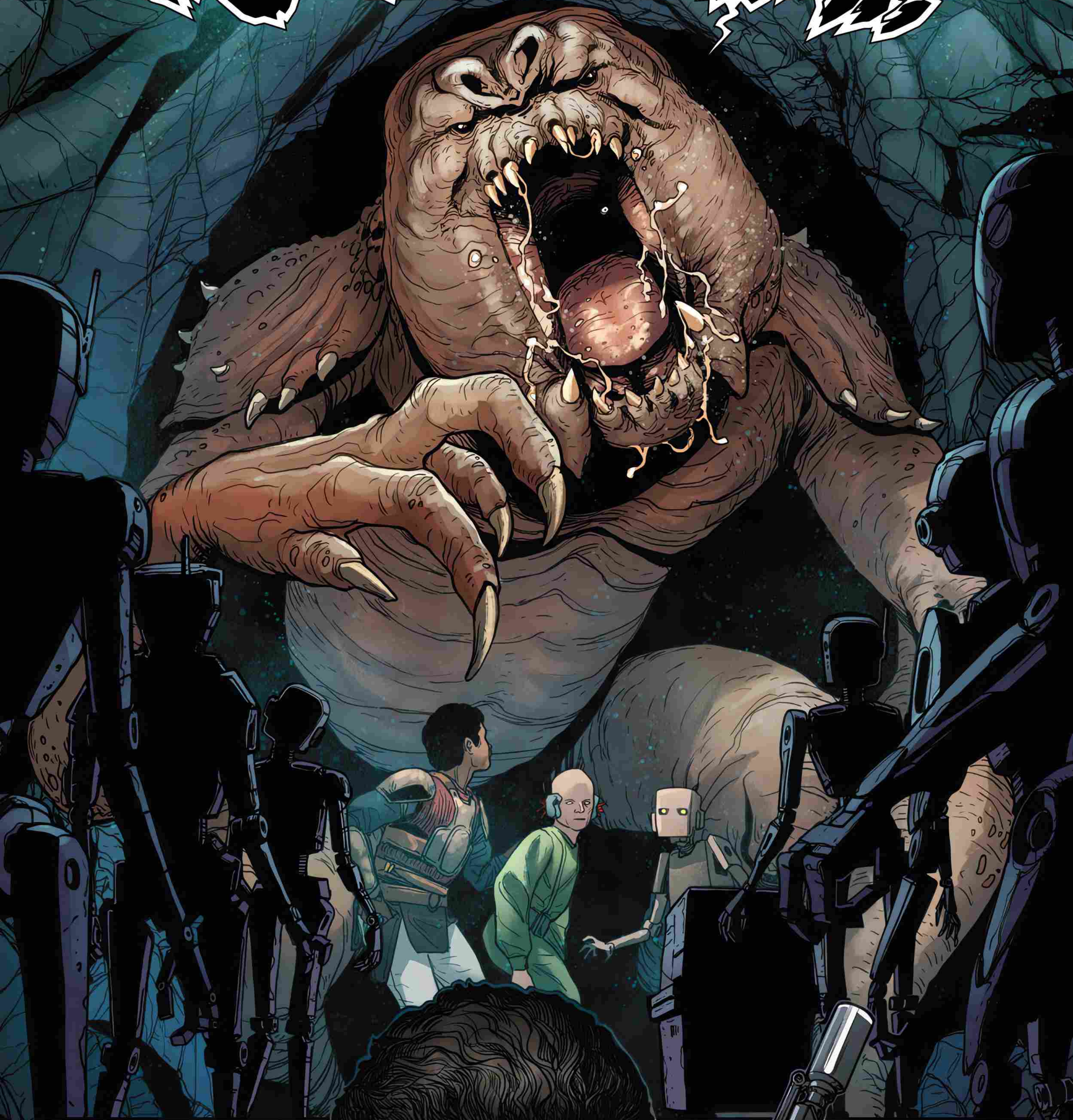
UH, GUYS...
WE GOT TROUBLE
THIS WAY.



QUICKLY! WE
CAN CLIMB UP
OUT OF THE PIT!

YOU CAN'T LET
THEM NEAR ME! IF
YOU LET THEM TAKE
ME, YOUR FRIEND
WILL NEVER BE--

POOOOAAAARRR!



WONDERFUL.



To be continued....

It's Coming for the Metal...

AUGUST:

~~DARK DROIDS 1~~
~~STAR WARS 37~~
~~DARTH VADER 37~~
~~DOCTOR APHRA 35~~
~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 37~~

SEPTEMBER:

~~STAR WARS 38~~
DARK DROIDS 2
D-SQUAD 1
BOUNTY HUNTERS 38
DARTH VADER 38
DOCTOR APHRA 36

OCTOBER:

BOUNTY HUNTERS 39
DARTH VADER 39
DARK DROIDS 3
STAR WARS 39
D-SQUAD 2
DOCTOR APHRA 37

NOVEMBER:

STAR WARS 40
D-SQUAD 3
DARK DROIDS 4
DARTH VADER 40
BOUNTY HUNTERS 40
DOCTOR APHRA 38

DECEMBER:

STAR WARS 41
D-SQUAD 4
BOUNTY HUNTERS 41
DARTH VADER 41
DOCTOR APHRA 39
DARK DROIDS 5

NEXT

STAR WARS 39

